

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-04

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DRAFTED BY: ARA:CAR:G.B.HIGH:LK

APPROVED BY: ARA:CAR:JOHN R. BURKE

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R 241935Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168969

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE INFO ABIDJAN, ADDIS ABABA, BAMAKO,
BELGRADE, CANBERRA, CARACAS, DAR ES SALAAM, FREETOWN, JAKARTA,
KABUL, NEW DELHI, MOSCOW, PORT OF SPAIN, PRAGUE, SANTIAGO,
SOFIA, STOCKHOLM, TEHRAN, TUNIS, PEKING FROM USUN ON AUG 23,
RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN RQ

SUBJ: PUERTO RICO IN UN COMITE OF 24

1. AT ITS AUG 22 MEETING, UN COMITE OF 24 TOOK FIRST ACTION OF
SUBSTANCE ON PR THIS YEAR BY VOTING 12-0 WITH 12 ABSTENTIONS TO
GRANT HEARING AT AUG 23 MEETING TO PUERTO RICAN INDEPENDENCE
LEADERS BERRIOS AND MARI BRAS. THOSE VOTING IN FAVOR ARGUED
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HEARING COULD CONTRIBUTE TO COMITE'S CURRENT DEBATE ON HOW

TO IMPLEMENT COMITE'S 1972 RES ON PR AND WOULD NOT PREJUDICE COMITE'S EVENTUAL DECISION. ABSTAINERS ARE CLAIMED (MOSTLY IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS) THAT GRANTING PUERTO RICANS A HEARING COULD SET DANGEROUS PRECEDENT BY INVOLVING COMITE IN AREAS OF WORLD NOT ON UN'S LIST OF NON-SELF-GOVERNING TERRITORIES.

2. VICTORY FOR CUBAN SPONSORED PROPOSAL FOLLOWED LAST-MINUTE COLLAPSE OF EFFORTS BY COMITE'S MODERATES (PRINCIPALLY AUSTRALIA, ETHIOPIA AND IRAN) TO ARRIVE AT COMPROMISE WHEREBY COMITE WOULD AVOID VOTE THROUGH CONSENSUS AGREEMENT PERMITTING INDEPENDENTISTAS TO PRESENT WRITTEN MATERIAL TO COMITE BUT DENYING THEM RIGHT TO SPEAK BEFORE IT. COMPROMISE SABOTAGED BY CHILEANS AND IRAQIS WHO REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN FULL HEARING AND INSISTED ON A VOTE. CHILEANS PLAYED PARTICULARLY DEVIOUS ROL. AFTER AMB BENNETT TOLD DEPUTY PERMREP HOLGER MORNING AUG 22 THAT CHILE'S ACTIVE CHAMPIONING OF HEARING WAS INTERVENTION IN US INTERNAL AFFAIRS (SUBJECT ABOUT WHICH CHILE OVTFEN COMPLAINS) AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT HELP TO IMPROVE US-CHILEAN RELATIONS, HOLGER CLAIMED CHILEANS NOT TAKING LEAD AND WOULD CERTAINLY NOT STAND IN WAY OF COMPROMISE. NEVERTHELESS, AS AUG 22 COMITE MEETING OPENED, CHILEAN AMB DIAZ CASANUEVA MADE IT CLEAR IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATES (OVERHEARD BY MISOFF) THAT CHILE INSISTING ON A HEARING. IRAQIS REPORTEDLY UNDER FIRM INSTRUCTIONS TO BACK CUBANS ALL THE WAY AFTER CUBANS LOBBYED INTENSIVELY IN BAGHDAD.

3. VOTING TO HEAR PUERTO RICANS WERE: BULGARIA, CHILE, CHINA, CONGO, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, FIJI, IRAQ, MALI, SYRIA, TANZANIA, USSR,. 67&9)-;8-. ABSTAINING WERE: AFGHANISTAN, AUSTRALIA, ETHIOPIA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAN, IVORY COAST, SIERRA LEONE, SWEDEN, TRINIDAD&TOBAGO, TUNISIA, VENEZUELA. VOTE GENERALLY FOLLOWED LAST YEAR'S COMITE VOTE ON PUERTO RICAN RES WITH 3 EXCEPTIONS. WE FAVORABLY SURPRISED BY INDIA AND SIERRA LEONE BUT DISMAYED BY FIJI'S SWITCH, (SEPTTEL PROVIDING SOME SPECULATION ABOUT FIJI'S MOTIVES FOLLOWS TO DEPT, CANBERRA AND SUVA). ONLY MEMBERS SPEAKING IN FAVOR OF HEARING BEFORE VOTE TAKEN WERE CHILE, IRAQ, MALI AND SYRIA. SOVS, CZECHS AND BULGARIANS FOLLOWED THROUGH ON THEIR PROMISES IN CAPITALS NOT TO TAKE LEAD ON THIS
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ISSUE. THEY FIRST AGREED TO COMPROMISE FLOATED BY IRANIANS AND, WHEN THAT COLLAPSED, CONTENTED THEMSELVES WITH CASTING VOTE CONSISTENT WITH THEIR "WELL ESTABLISHED POSITIONS." CHANGE IN SOV BEHAVIOR FROM LAST YEAR PARTICULARLY NOTABLE, SINCE USSR DEL DURING 1972 COMITE DEBATE ON PR PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN PUSHING CUBAN-BACKED PROPOSALS ON PR.

4. STATEMENT ISSUED BY AMB SCALI FOLLOWING COMITE'S VOTE BEING

TRANSMITTED SEPTEL.

SCALI
UNQUOTE RUSH

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED CURACAO AND MARTINIQUE.

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